(b) if so, whether the said drink has been tested; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The drink prepared by Field Research Laboratory (FRL), Leh has been supplied to troops deployed at different posts of Siachen Glacier. It does not freeze upto 20° C in adverse field conditions as well as in laboratory testing.

Defence Purchases from Countries Supportive to National Interests

101. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make defence procurements from only those countries who espouse our national interest internationally;

(b) if so, the reasons and details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to consider such a proposal in near future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Procurement of defence items is based on technical and commercial considerations as per the procurement procedure of the Ministry of Defence.

Fire/Accidents in Ordnance Depots

102. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of cases of fire in ordnance factories and accidents in transportation of arms and ammunition have taken place after the failure of Agra Summit in 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantity and value of the loss of arms and ammunition besides property and human lives lost in each case;

(c) whether any sabotage has been established in these cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, what were the causes of these accidents; and